


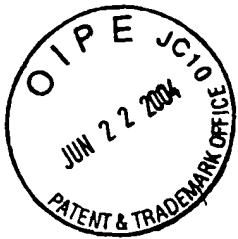
**STATEMENT**

I, TAKAAKI ITOH, hereby state that I am competent in both the Japanese and English languages and that the attached English language translation is an accurate translation of the U.S. patent application filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 15, 2003.

Date: MAY 12, 2004

Name: TAKAAKI ITOH

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. Itoh", written over a horizontal line.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/684,586 Confirmation No. 1751  
Applicant : Shoutoku OHYAMA  
Filed : October 15, 2003  
TC/A.U. : Unknown  
Examiner : Unknown  
Dkt. No. : ABE-018  
Cust. No. : 20374

**TRANSMITTAL OF ASSERTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 22, 2004

Sir:

The applicants claim small entity status as provided under 37 CFR §1.27(a)(2). An executed Assertion of Entitlement to Small Entity Status is attached hereto.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this matter the Commissioner is authorized to debit our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK

Keiko Tanaka Kubovcik  
Reg. No. 40,428

Atty. Docket No. ABE-018  
The Farragut Building  
Suite 710  
900 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Tel: 202-887-9023  
Fax: 202-887-9093  
KTK/jbf

Enclosure: Assertion of Entitlement to Small Entity Status